SUBJECT No. 132.

Agency for the sale of Mysore timber.

Mr. K. Sankaranarayana Rao, Nagar Sabha.

Summary of discussion.—It is requested that Government may be pleased to state:—

(*a*) What has been spent up to date on account of travelling allowances granted to Mr. Strickland? What is the extra income derived from the sale of the local timber in foreign markets, if any; and have any net profits been realised up to date?

(*b*) Whether timber of all qualities is thus sold or only carefully selected pieces?

(*c*) Have men in service gained any experience regarding the foreign timber market?

Reply of Government.—(*a*) The total value of the sales amounts to Rs. 33,238 and the expenses to Rs. 7,363 excluding the cost of Mr. Strickland's journeys to Egypt and China. As compared with the local sales there has been a net profit of nearly Rs. 5,000.

(*b*) Selected timber is sent just as purchasers at depots are allowed to select timber.

(*c*) Not yet.

SUBJECT No. 133.

Concessions to *kumri* cultivators.

Messrs. C. Vaman Rao, and N. Subba Rao, Nagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The *kunabis* were originally living by cutting jungle wood and by *kumri* cultivation in the Western Ghats region of the Shimoga District. This afforded protection against the ravages of wild beasts and caused no diminution of rainfall. As no restriction was placed on the locality to be cultivated with *kumri*, there were facilities also for the growth of forests in the places abandoned by the *kunabis* now and then. With the introduction of the Forest Regulation these facilities ceased and the restriction placed on the areas to be cultivated with *kumri* has not been beneficial. The cultivation is confined to the old tracts and an application for a new spot can now be granted only after a lengthy correspondence between the Revenue and Forest Departments. It is therefore prayed that permission may be granted for *kumri* cultivation at any place within a range of 15 miles from the ghats and that where the tracts applied for do not contain valuable timber, the Amildars may be empowered to sanction the applications.

Reply of Government.—This cannot be done.

SUBJECT No. 134.

Concessions to ryots whose houses are destroyed by accidental fires.

Messrs. Vaman Rao and Subba Rao, Nagar Taluk.

Summary of discussion.—The Amildars are at present empowered to grant Rs. 5 worth of materials for the reconstruction of houses destroyed by accidental fires; applications for larger grants have to be sanctioned by higher authorities, and there is much delay in receiving sanction from the higher officers. The powers of Amildars in this respect may therefore be raised and they may be empowered to grant materials of the value of Rs. 25 on their own authority.

Reply of Government.—Will be considered.